

DECK PERFORMANCE MODEL LITERATURE REVIEW AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

Implementation Recommendation

After reviewing the consultant's draft final report on this project, we conclude that terminating the project at this point would best serve MDT interests.

In our opinion, the literature review prepared by the consultant illustrates in detail the state of the art in this subject area. It shows that the industry sees a number of ways to address this problem, with wide diversity of opinion and little in common. As the consultant reports, its survey of thirty-five DOTs found only six using computer models to predict bridge deterioration. Only three of the thirty-five used models like this at the project level. MDT would benefit by waiting for the industry to coalesce some of its efforts, such as the coalition working on improving the ACI program Life 365. We see little justification for the Department's paying to be one of the leaders in this arena.

We see this project as offering the opportunity to tie up MDT staff members' time in great quantities, in a process that could easily continue for years. As other big software projects in the Department have demonstrated, nothing guarantees a useful product at the end of that time, money and effort.

The biggest single flaw we see in continuing this project lies in assessment of the final product. MDT would literally have no way to evaluate the product's effectiveness other than to collect project and maintenance data for twenty-five or thirty years. The consultant's fee of up to \$400,000.00 would only begin the cost MDT would have to agree to absorb to pursue this project.

We recommend declaring the consultant as having fulfilled the contract requirements and terminating the project at this point.